IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 12 to 19 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

1. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting image data;

coding means for compression-encoding the input image data;

recording means for recording the compression-encoded image data on an external recording medium;

decoding means for decoding the compression-encoded image data before said recording means records the compression-encoded image data on the external recording medium; and

display means for selectively displaying the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by said decoding means, before said recording means records the compression-encoded image data on the external recording medium.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display means displays the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data at the same time.

4. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said decoding means further decodes compression-encoded image data previously recorded on the external recording medium.

5. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said coding means compression-encodes the input image data by selectively using one of a plurality of types of compression-encoding methods.

6. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said plurality of types of compression-encoding methods include at least a JPEG method.

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7. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said plurality of types of compression-encoding methods include at least an MPEG method.

8. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said coding means has a plurality of image-quality modes having differing rates of codes supplied for one screen.

9. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means comprises image pickup means for generating the input image data from a captured image.

10. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the input image data is still image data.

11. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising instruction means for dictating a photographing timing of said

image pickup means, wherein said display means displays the compression-encoded/decoded image data in response to an output of said instruction means.

Claims 12 to 19 (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium embodying processor-executable instructions for image processing steps, comprising:

an input step of inputting image data;

a coding step of compression-encoding the input image data input in the inputting step;

a recording step of recording the compression-encoded image data on an external recording medium;

a decoding step of decoding the compression-encoded image data before the compression-encoded image data is recorded in the recording step; and

a display step of selectively displaying the input image data input in the inputting step and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded in the decoding step, before the compression-encoded image data is recorded in the recording step.

21. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium embodying processor-executable instructions for image processing steps, comprising:

an input step of inputting image data;

a coding step of compression-encoding the input image data input in the inputting step;

a decoding step of decoding the compression-encoded image data; and

a display step of displaying on display means difference image data between the input image data input in the inputting step and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded in the decoding step.

22. (Previously Presented) Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an image pickup mechanism for generating input image data from a captured image;

a compression/decompression circuit for compression-encoding the input image data and for decoding the compression-encoded image data;

C1 a recording interface for recording on a recording medium the compression-encoded image data;

a display for displaying the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by said compression/decompression circuit; and

a control circuit for controlling said compression/decompression circuit to decode the compression-encoded image data before the compression-encoded image data is recorded via said recording interface.

23. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said control circuit controls said display to selectively display the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by said compression/decompression circuit.

24. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said compression/decompression circuit compression-encodes the input

image data by selectively using one of a plurality of types of compressing-encoding methods.

25. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising a switch for dictating a photographing timing of said image pickup mechanism, wherein said control controls said display to display the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by said compression/decompression circuit in response to an actuation of said switch.

26. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an image pickup mechanism for generating input image data from a captured image;

a compression/decompression circuit for compression-encoding the input image data and for decoding the compression-encoded image data; and

a display for displaying difference image data between the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by said compression/decompression circuit.

27. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising a recording interface for recording on a recording medium the compression-encoded image data.

28. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said compression/decompression circuit compression-encodes the input image data by selectively using one of a plurality of types of compression-encoding methods.